

October 2, 2001

Prelude to September 11, 2001

A Decade of Terrorist Attacks

Terrorism is not new – it may be as old as warfare – but terrorists are now wielding new and more terrifying weapons, and they are wielding them against civilians on American soil.

The attacks of September 11, 2001, dwarf all previous terrorist attacks.

In the *entire decade* of the 1990s, 97 American citizens lost their lives in international terrorist attacks and about 1700 were wounded, according to the Department of State. (Another 168 Americans were killed and more than 400 injured in the Oklahoma City bombing.)

Then, on that one bloody Tuesday just three weeks ago, thousands were killed and wounded.

Some observers believe that the attacks of September 11 have roots that go back to the 1980s when terrorists in Beirut, Lebanon attacked the U.S. embassy, the Marine Corps barracks, and the embassy annex. There was also a terrorist attack on the U.S. embassy in Kuwait. In December, 1988, terrorists blew up Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

In the 1990s, terrorism was visited upon American soil when the World Trade Center was bombed from its underground garage in February, 1993. The Oklahoma City bombing was in 1995, as was the attack on American military advisors in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. military was attacked again in Saudi Arabia in 1996 when a fuel truck was turned into a huge bomb that was used against Khobar Towers. In 1998, the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed on the same day. The destroyer U.S.S. Cole was attacked in Yemen in the fall of 2000. Then came September 11, 2001.

The major terrorist attacks of the last decade are summarized on the following page.

Written by Lincoln Oliphant, 224-2946
RPC Intern Malisah Johnson provided research assistance.

Major Terrorist Attacks Against the United States, 1993 - Present
(numbers are for total deaths and injuries, not just deaths and injuries of U.S. citizens)

1993, World Trade Center garage bombing, NYC

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
Feb. 26, 1993, rented van packed with explosives	1 ton TNT	6	>1,000

1995, Oklahoma City bombing, Murrah Federal Building

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
April 19, 1995, rented truck full of explosives	2½ tons TNT	168	>400

1995, attack on U.S. military advisors in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
Nov. 13, 1995, truck bomb	¼ ton TNT	7	42

1996, Khobar Towers bombing, Saudi Arabia

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
June 25, 1996, fuel truck bomb	10-15 tons TNT	19	>500

1998, bombing of U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
August 7, 1998, truck bomb	1 ton TNT	291	> 5,000

1998, bombing of U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
August 7, 1998, truck bomb	1 ton TNT	10	77

2000, bombing of U.S.S. Cole, Aden, Yemen

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
October 12, 2000, small water craft bomb	1 ton TNT	17	39

2001, attack on World Trade Center using two airliners, NYC

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bombs' Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
Sept. 11, 2001, two fully fueled airliners	900 tons TNT	5,350 (?)	>6,500

2001, attack on Pentagon using an airliner, Arlington, VA

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
Sept. 11, 2001, one fully fueled airliner	400 tons TNT	189	76

2001, hijacking and crash of Flight 93, near Pittsburgh, PA

<u>Event</u>	<u>Bomb's Power</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Injuries</u>
Sept. 11, 2001, crash of hijacked airliner in Penna.	400 tons TNT	44	0